

WIC VENDOR BULLETIN

Volume II No. 3

April - June 2002 Quarter

To: WIC Vendors:

This is the third quarterly WIC Vendor Bulletin for the Federal Fiscal Year 2002. Quarterly bulletins, in effect, update the terms of the WIC Vendor Agreement as set forth in that Agreement in Section 2.t.

Policy/Vendor Agreement Changes Since Last Bulletin

On February 21, 2002 the Texas Board of Health adopted an amended Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 31, which became effective April 1, 2002. This amended rule is now part of the Vendor Agreement. The rule, which accommodated comments received and described in the WIC Vendor Bulletin, Volume II, No. 2, was adopted as presented.

Multi-Year Vendor Agreements

Vendors were recently notified of our proposal to enter into two year Vendor Agreements instead of one as is currently done. This was proposed to reduce the annual burden on both vendors and state staff. The comments we received were very supportive. The first two year Vendor Agreements will commence October 1, 2002. However, only approximately one-half of the vendors will receive two year agreements. The rest will receive one year agreements. Vendors who receive one year agreements will receive two year agreements commencing October 1, 2003.

Revised Banded Food Package Cost Report

The Banded Food Package Cost Report is used by the state to evaluate each vendor for competitive pricing. The process for determining competitive pricing is described in general terms in the TAC Chapter 31.34. That Section states that we will use prior period prices to compare a vendor's current prices against. The programming for performing these calculations is in its final stages. Vendors and interested parties will soon receive a notice describing the process in detail.

WIC Advisory Committee

The make up of the WIC Advisory Committee passed by the 77th Legislature was described in WIC Vendor Bulletin, Volume II, No. 1 along with an invitation for qualified persons to apply. Applications were received and members appointed. The Committee met for the first time on April 2, 2002. The committee was addressed by Eduardo Sanchez M.D., Texas Commissioner of Health. Included in his remarks Doctor Sanchez said "As inaugural members of this committee, you have a unique opportunity in the 28-year history of the Texas WIC Program to contribute your knowledge, expertise and commitment to advance the cause of public health". Mike Montgomery, Chief, Bureau of Nutrition Services and Texas WIC Director also addressed the Committee providing background on the Program and the issues facing it. The Committee members introduced themselves, expressed their concerns, elected a chair and vice chair, established subcommittees, established terms of members, adopted by-laws and established the meeting schedule. The Chair is Bruce Bower, Advocate, Texas Legal Services Center and the Vice Chair is Norma Longoria, WIC Project Director, Hidalgo County Health

Department. The Committee will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the 1st month of each quarter from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2002. The location is to be announced. For a complete list of Committee members or other information about the Committee, you may contact Valerie Wolfe at valerie.wolfe@tdh.state.tx.us.